पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) :(क) और (ख) वन्यजीव/सुरक्षा अधिनियम को लागू करना और राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों और अभयारण्यों के प्रबन्ध का उत्तरदायित्व मुख्यत: राज्य सरकारों और संघ राज्य प्रशासनों का है। देश में 413 अभयारण्य और 73 राष्ट्रीय उद्यान हैं। देश में वन्यजीव प्रबन्धकों की संख्या हजारों में होगी। सम्पूर्ण देश के वन्यजीव पदाधिकारियों के बारे में जो शिकायतें प्राप्त होती हैं, उनके बारे में सूचना के केन्द्रीकृत मिलान की कोई प्रणाली नहीं है।

(ग) जब कभी केन्द्र सरकार को किसी वन्यजीव अधिकारी के खिलाफ कोई शिकायत प्राप्त होती है तो उसे राज्य के मुख्य वन्यजीव वार्डन को जांच के लिए भेज दिया जाता है और दोषी पाए जाने पर उस अधिकारी के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई की जाती है।

Forest Area

934. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total forest area in the country at present, State|District|Tehsil-wise;

(b) whether there are any global standards fixing the requirement of the area for covering under forests as compared to the total area of a country;

(c) if so, to what extent the country meets these standards; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to correct the imbalance, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The recorded forest area in the country is 7,70,073 sq. kms. The statewise break-up is given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) There are no global standards fixing requirement of forest cover for a country. However, the National Forest Policy, 1988, envisages that the national goal should have a minimum of one-third of the total land-area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-thirds of the area under such cover, in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system. However, the country has only 19.44 per cent of the total Geographical area under actual forest cover.

(d) Government has taken the following steps:

(1) Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

(2) Wood is being substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction etc.

(3) Import policy for forest products has been liberalised.

(4) Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.

(5) Guidelines have been issued to State Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:—

(i) To avoid clear felling of natural forest and were such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or others silvi-cultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) A massive afforestation programme including Social Forestry and Agroforestry under 20 Point Programme in all States and Union Territories has been launched. Upto the end of VIIth five year plan, an area to the tune of 17.09 million hectares has been brought under afforestation.

(iv) Government of India have issued guidelines for peoples' participation in management an development of degraded forests, and their active involvement in afforestation programme.

Statement

S.No.	State/U.Ts	Total Forest Area (KM)*
1	Andhra Pradesh	63720.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	51540.00
3	Assam	30707.57
4	Bihar	29220.00
5	Goa	1256.00
6	Gujarat	19388.00
7	Haryana	1687.26
8	Himachal Pradesh	37591.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	20173.74
10	Karnataka	38645.56
11	Kerala	11232.31
12	Madhya Pradesh	155414.38
13	Maharashtra	63861.00
14	Manipur	15154.00
15	Meghalaya	9496.04
16	Mizoram	15935.00
17	Nagaland	8625.00
18	Orissa	59555.40
19	Punjab	2842.36
20	Rajasthan	31553.68
21	Sikkim	2650.00
22	Tamilnadu	29699.00
23	Tripura	6191.67
24	Uttar Pradesh	51501.53
25	West Bengal	11979.00
26	Andaman and Nicobar Island	7171.00
27	Chandigarh	31.04
28	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	207.40
29	Delhi	42.00
30	Lakshadweep	..
31	Pandicherry	..
	TOTAL :	770078.42